

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated December 4, 2009. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 9-17 and 19 are pending in the Application.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 5 and 17 are allowable. Accordingly, claim 5 is rewritten in independent for to include the recitations of its base claim.

In the Office Action, claim 17 is objected to as being a duplicate of claim 5. However, claim 17 includes an element that makes claim 17 narrower than claim 5. Claim 17 recites that mono-aluminum phosphate binders as in claim 5 are filled with the inorganic particles. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response claim 10 is amended to remove the objected to phrase of "such as". It is submitted that claim 10 is in proper form. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 9-16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,390,432 to Boulud ("Boulud") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,551,183 to Vondracek ("Vondracek"). Claims 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Boulud in view of Vondracek and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,822,686 to Louison et al. ("Louison"). The rejections are respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that the rejected claims are allowable over the cited references for at least the following reasons.

The Office Action argues (see page 3) that by referring to enamel, Boulud describes the first layer of claim 1. Boulud describes a soleplate 1 at least in part covered by a coating 11, which in turn is covered by a coating 20. The coating 11 is described at col. 2, lines 63-67 as follows:

Coating 11 is composed of at least one layer of a material having good hydrophilic and/or wettability properties intended to promote, respectively, spreading of the water over the surface of coating 8 and absorption of the water into the coating.

and further at col. 3, lines 2-6 as follows:

Also preferably, coating 11 is chosen from among materials having good thermal isolation properties in a manner to constitute a thermal barrier permitting a relative lowering of the temperature of the vaporization chamber in order to promote vaporization.

This does not rise to a level of teaching, disclosing, or suggesting "a first layer deposited on the interior surface of the substrate of the steam-generating device for lowering a temperature of the substrate to a value below the Leidenfrost point" as recited in claim 1. Moreover, Boulud does not suggest or require that its coating 11 be thermally insulating.

Vondracek is introduced only for teaching sodium silicate and does not remedy the deficiencies of Boulud discussed above.

It is respectfully submitted that Boulud in view of Vondracek does not disclose or suggest, amongst other patentable elements, (illustrative emphasis provided) "a first layer deposited on the interior surface of the substrate of the steam-generating device for lowering a temperature of the substrate to a value below the Leidenfrost point; and a second layer deposited over the first layer, wherein the first layer is essentially impermeable to water and is thermally insulating and the second layer is hydrophilic and

comprises inorganic particles selected from one of clay particles and Al₂O₃ particles." as recited in independent claim 1, and as similarly recited in independent claims 12 and 15.

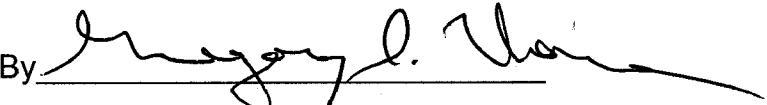
Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 12 and 15 and amended claim 5 are allowable over Boulud in view of Vondracek and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Claims 2, 4 and 9-11 depend from claim 1, claims 13 and 14 depend from claim 12, and claims 16, 17 and 19 depend from claim 15 and, accordingly, are allowable over the cited art of record for at least the same reasons as the respective independent claims, as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the claims. Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

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Serial No. 10/553,919
Amendment in Reply to Office Action of December 4, 2009

Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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